

Felton, (C. E.)

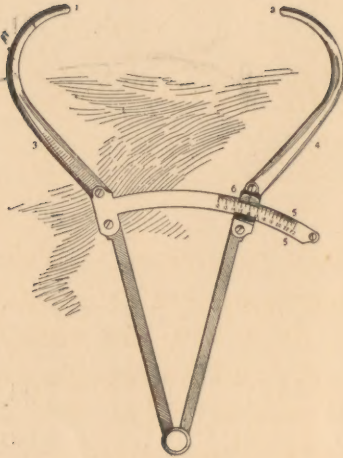
Congress of the National Prison Association,
at Nashville, Tennessee, Nov. 16-20, 1889.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF CRIMINALS.
Its Value as a Preventive of Crime; and the
Importance of Unity of Action among Prison
Officials in Securing a Fixed and General System.

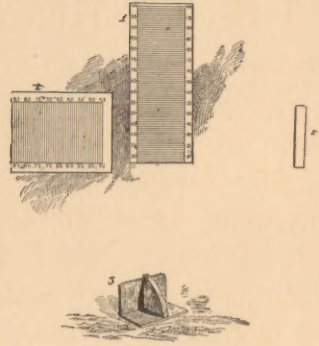


By CHARLES E. FELTON,
Superintendent of the House of Correction, Chicago, Illinois.

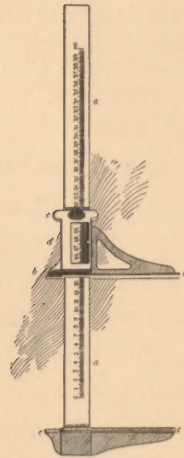
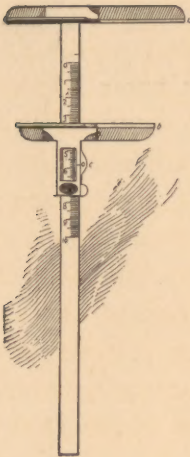
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1889.



CALIPER COMPASSES.



VERTICAL, HORIZONTAL AND SQUARE MEASURES.



SLIDING COMPASSES.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF CRIMINALS.

Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen:—The Wardens' Association for the Registration of Criminals was organized March 8, 1887. It is now two years, eight months, and some days old; and its organizers are beginning to think that it should never have had a being, as but few prison wardens have become members of it; hence, its usefulness has not been made apparent. That its membership may be increased, and its usefulness be shown, are the only reasons why the subject is again brought to your attention. Prior to its organization, its originators sent personal letters to all known wardens and superintendents of convict prisons in the more populous sections of this country, inviting each to be present at the organizing meeting. Several wardens accepted the invitation, and were present. Others sent regrets; but announced their approval of the purpose. But one, or two at most, of those to whom invitations were sent, gave expression of disapproval. The initiatory objects of the association were, to secure the registration, in a central office, of the criminal record of prisoners, so far as the same can be made known to prison officers—members of the association;—and the interchange, between prisons, of such information, with a view to distinguishing between habitual criminals and those who have committed but a single offense; and, also, as an aid to reformatory work in prisons. In its organization, membership was restricted

to wardens or superintendents of prisons for the confinement of convicted felons or misdemeanants. It invited all such officials to become members. The prisons now represented in the association are, the House of Correction, Detroit, Mich.; State Penitentiary, Columbus, Ohio; State Prison, Lansing, Kansas; State Prison, Trenton, N. J.; State Prison, Concord, N. H.; State Prison, Thomaston, Me.; Central Prison, Toronto, Ontario; House of Correction, Chicago, Ill.; State House of Correction, Ionia, Mich.; State Prison, North, Michigan City, Indiana; State Prison, Jackson, Mich.; House of Correction, Cleveland, Ohio; State Prison, Allegheny, Pa.; State Reformatory, Huntingdon, Pa.;—fourteen institutions in all.

The wardens who formed the association believed that the three most distinctive aims in criminal jurisprudence should be, the prevention of crime, by the arrest, conviction, and secure detention of offenders; their reformation while in prison; and if reformed, or if not reformed, the prevention of renewed crime-life, upon their return to free-life. For these ends, severally, they found a requirement not as yet provided—the adoption of an uniform method for the perfect identification of persons who had been previously convicted of crime. In their inquiry, they examined the Bertillon system of measurements, approved of it, and adopted it as a substitute for their own faulty systems of descriptions. They held meetings, established a central office, in which to receive reports and diffuse information at call, framed bills favoring the Bertillon system, and recommended their passage by state legislatures. Thus they initiated a work which will, in their opinion, if directed by the laws of the several states, and carefully followed by the officers of their penal institutions,

do more toward the prevention of relapse to crime-life of discharged and paroled convicts, than is possible under any other systems that have yet been devised by human wisdom.

Prior to the discovery, by M. Alphonse Bertillon, that the bone-case which contains the brain of an adult human being, called a skull, does not change to an appreciable extent, in its several measurements, there was no system of measurements and descriptions by which a man could be identified. Height, weight, complexion, color of hair and of eyes, malformations, scars, and photographs and other evidences, were insufficient, and misleading. They amounted to but little in determining identity. No man could write a description of another man that would not apply to hundreds, as perfectly as to the person described. If it be *not* true that the skull of an adult human being does not change, then the system is imperfect; but still not so imperfect that it should be cast aside as useless; for it is a great aid, even if imperfect. If it be true that the skull of an adult does *not* change, then the Bertillon system should be followed in every prison, everywhere, as it makes deception impossible; and the system of registration in a central office, and of an interchange of information between offices through the central office, is not only desirable, but it is absolutely necessary, if it be the aim to prevent the commission of crime by discharged convicts, or their punishment as recidivists, if again offending. If prison wardens assume that it is none of their business to provide for an inmate's good conduct after discharge, or to make his identification easy if he again offends, when such provision can be easily made, then their conception of their responsibilities is not in harmony with my views.

Wardens are not mere jailers—mere turnkeys—mere tax-eaters; and their moral responsibility does not cease upon the release of their prisoners. If that were all, why educate prisoners? If they are criminally inclined, the education you have given to them will make them the more expert—the more dangerous—when free, unless aided until they become strong. Why teach them trades? Why try to reform them? Why admit them to parole—to probation—and guard them that they fall not? Why furnish them with places for employment, and homes when discharged? These things are done by prison wardens who believe that criminals can be reformed, and such wardens do not always wait for a legal command; nor should they neglect to make provision for the detection of criminals, in case they relapse. Is there a reformatory where all interest ends with an inmate's final discharge? Is there a convict prison whose warden will say that it would be officious for him to go beyond what the letter of the law requires from him in the discharge of his duty? Should he not say, rather, that it is his duty to obtain and record such information as will enable the public to protect itself against criminally-inclined ex-convicts?

Under the administration of an efficient warden, many prisoners do reform. The mere legal methods with him are not restrictively followed. New ways are devised. It is the genius of the warden that comes into play. But the genius of the warden must not be confined to the mere release from his custody of his ward, and placing him where a home and employment are found. It must go further—it must extend so far as to provide for any errors of judgment he may have made, and any errors his late ward may make. It must anticipate a possible relapse, whether with intent or without

intent. Before he has relieved himself of a part of his responsibility by the parole of or the discharge of a prisoner, should he not have first made provision for the protection of the public in case of relapse—of a return to crime-life? And is it necessary that he await the action of a state legislature, compelling him to do so? Wardens of the association have not so delayed action. They know that paroled and discharged prisoners are often weak and not reliable, notwithstanding the promises they have made. Such men should be made to realize that, in case of relapse and arrest, they will be identified, and extra penalties will be imposed. That force is just to the offenders; and its effect is deterrent to others; and it should be used. Some men love God, and keep his commandments for reason of that love. Others fear him, and also keep his commandments. Much love and much fear are salutary. Occasionally, a reformed prisoner may be placed in the former class; but it is just as well to embody in your system of prevention just a little of the element of fear, as an overbalancing weight in favor of doing right. When the scales are evenly balanced, and the discharged prisoner hesitates as to his conduct, if without the deterrent force of fear, he falls. If he realizes that, if detected in crime, he will certainly be identified and prosecuted, and an increased penalty be given because of his having been previously convicted, he will turn away, and avoid temptation, and say, "Get thee behind me, Satan! it does not pay to commit crime!" and he is restrained—saved from himself; and the public is not injured by his acts. Fear is often a controlling power. The burned child fears the fire. The ward in a reformatory for juveniles or adults, where the strap is used as a corrective, will recognize as a valuable tonic a single dispens-

ation, and will do as he is ordered,—he does not like a second “dispensation!” I would never use the strap; but I think that the fear of its being used would restrain me, if inclined to commit crime. The worst criminals in convict prisons are said to be the best-behaved of all inmates; and they are the best-behaved because they know that the authorities can almost take life, if necessary to secure obedience. Is there not an element of fear in that? In states where habitual criminal acts exist and are enforced, recidivists go elsewhere to follow their vocations—the hazard of extended imprisonment does not suit them. While at home, where it is dangerous to err, as they will be recognized if they do err, they are generally honest. Fear is here the deterrent—the controlling force in making the decision. When a discharged convict is not identified as a recidivist, when arrested for a new crime, even if he is convicted, it makes others of his class so fearless that they omit no opportunity to again prey upon the property of their fellow-men.

In reformatory work, also, a knowledge of the ancestry, environments, and antecedents of a prisoner are of immense aid. On his arrival at a prison, the official may, often, quickly classify him, and determine as to the general treatment that should be extended to him, if aided by the information furnished under the system proposed by the Wardens’ Association. Under the methods now in vogue, it may take months of inquiry to obtain facts which should be accessible in a day’s time. A warden can know just what the prisoner’s position should be, and the ways that should be tried, to the end that, if he will not reform personally, he shall not prevent others from making progress for their own good. Half the battle has been won, when the

criminal realizes that the warden is not in ignorance ; that, in fact, he knows all about him, and about his life.

These are some of the reasons why wardens should not wait until legislation is secured, before adopting a system for the protection of the public from the acts of men who live only by crime. But the wardens in the several states, whether members of the association or not, should urge proper legislation, at the earliest possible moment. It is necessary. Without it, there will be a laxity of effort, and there will be confusion and failure of results. The association has already secured legislation in Illinois and Pennsylvania, favoring its purposes. When the merits of the measure were presented to the legislature of the former state, the bill seemed to have had no opposition. In Pennsylvania, however, a section which was not advised by the association was added to the original bill, the latter provision in which may impair the usefulness of the law in that state. But it was offered and urged and passed, because of an overearnestness to do something—to do all that could be done—to protect the public from the dangerous presence and actions of dangerous men. It did not originate in timidity as to the special rights of discharged convicts. It was in the line of “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

I give the law as passed by the legislature of Illinois ; and, also, the additional section, as adopted by the legislature of Pennsylvania :

AN ACT FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF HABITUAL CRIMINALS.

SECTION I. That in every prison in this state, to which persons convicted of any felonious offense are or may be committed by the courts of this state, the warden or other officer in charge shall record, or cause to be recorded, in a record kept for that purpose, a description of every person committed to such prison under sentence for a felony ; and also the criminal history of every such person so committed, so far as the same may appear from the records of

the courts of this state, or of any other state, or otherwise, as full and complete as may be obtainable ; and shall attach thereto a photograph or photographs of such person so recorded.

SECTION 2. That for the purpose mentioned in section one of this act, the prosecuting attorney of the county in which a criminal has been convicted and sentenced to prison for a felony shall forward to the warden, or other officer in charge, at the request of such warden or other officer, and upon blanks furnished by him, a criminal history of such criminal, as fully as is known or can be ascertained by such prosecuting attorney.

SECTION 3. The register herein provided for shall not be made public, except as may be necessary in the identification of persons accused of crime, and in their trial for offenses committed after having been imprisoned for a prior offense. The record shall be accessible, however, to any officer of any court having criminal jurisdiction in this state, upon the order of the judge of the court, or of the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the person is being held for a crime ; which said order shall be attested by the seal of the court ; and such record may be given in evidence upon any trial of an offender indicted under the habitual criminal law of this state, for the purpose of proving a former conviction or convictions, and the offense or offenses for which convicted.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of obtaining accurate descriptions of convicts, the wardens or other officers in charge of the several prisons in this state are hereby authorized to adopt the Bertillon method of measurement and registration, or such other method as shall minutely describe convicts.

SECTION 5. A copy of the description and of the history, and of the photograph or photographs, of any convict entered upon such register, shall be furnished, upon request of any warden or other officer in charge of a prison for felons in any other state of the United States, to such warden or other officer in charge : *Provided*, such state has made provision by law for recording the descriptions of its convicts, and for furnishing such descriptions to the authorities of such other states as have made provisions by law for the keeping of registers of descriptions and histories of their convicts.

The Pennsylvania legislature adopted sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, of the Illinois act, with slight changes to harmonize with other laws of that state ; but added the following, as

SECTION 6. And that a copy of the description, history, and photograph or photographs of any convict entered upon such records shall be furnished to any officer of the bureau of police in cities where state penitentiaries are located, upon the order of the superintendent of police thereof. *Also, that on or before the twenty-eighth day of each and every month, the warden of said state penitentiaries, located in said cities, shall furnish the superintendent of police of said cities the names of convicts whose sentences expire the following month, together with the date when sentence commenced, the county from which committed, the crime for which convicted, and the exact day when convict will be discharged.*

Anticipating the chief objection that has been urged by some of our warden friends against the adoption of the Bertillon system, I would answer, that I do not like the last clause of the Pennsylvania act. It should not direct a warden to notify police organizations of the names and crimes of *all* prisoners to be discharged, or to give any information as to *all* prisoners prior to their discharge. It would have been better had it directed the warden to give information as to such prisoners only as he believes will not live honestly after release from imprisonment. That would be sufficient; and it would make him morally responsible for the good conduct of those whom he does not report. His interest in them and their conduct would not end upon their release from his custody. There are thousands of ex-convicts who do not require police surveillance; and it is wrong to follow them, to annoy them, and to report them. "You have an ex-convict in your employ as book-keeper, sir," may be said to a merchant. The balance of the story is not told; and the man is discharged. Possibly, the crime for which he had been imprisoned was not against property at all, and that he had never been dishonest; but the crime was against the person, and there were such palliating circumstances in the matter that little blame should have been attached to the offender. But had the offense been burglary, or larceny, or forgery, and had the book-keeper been a visitor at gambling-houses, or other demoralizing places, what objection could be urged to giving the information to the employer? It would prevent crime. Now, the warden should have much latitude under the law. He has had time to become acquainted with his men, and to know their inclinations, and to determine what their course of life is likely to be; and only the men who

deserve to be watched should be reported to the authorities by him. And when he does make a report, it should cover all that is known of a man. It should be a copy of the information on record in the central office of the Wardens' Association. The man is not unjustly handicapped. The record in the central office will not injure him, unless he has made a very unfavorable one. Certainly, the Bertillon system has not handicapped him. It was his conduct, and habits, and associations. The report might be required, under any system of measurements for identification. Without furnishing other information than that John Doe will be discharged on a certain day; that his crime was an assault with intent to do bodily injury; with no reference to his previous history, nor to his conduct and ways while in prison; and of the probability, in the mind of the warden, as to the future good conduct of the man, he would, indeed, be handicapped—sadly handicapped—in his new battle of life, if shadowed by detectives.

Descriptions and photographs in prison work, prior to the organization of the Wardens' Association, were for the sole purpose of identifying escaped convicts, if rearrested. The association need not long urge the Bertillon system in that connection. It must be adopted by prison managers, or their lost sheep will not be returned to them. And who are the lost sheep? Not those alone who escape from convict prisons, by sawing bars, or by open revolt. It includes such prisoners as have been paroled or released on ticket-of-leave, and who have broken the conditions upon which they were paroled—have fled from the state to which they owe service. That they can escape and no one pursue, is, to my mind, the most serious objection to the parolling

of prisoners. It is wrong that no effort is made for their recapture. With the Bertillon system, if they are arrested for new crimes, and in states other than the ones to which they owe service, at least their identity may be known. The percentage of claimed reforms in prisons would be largely reduced, if measurements were taken correctly, and reported to a central office. Courtesy and interest should prompt states to pass uniform laws upon this subject. Another view: Looking backward, how much time and money would have been saved, had the Bertillon system been applied in the description of the now famous Tascott, when a prisoner in Kentucky, some years since? And he is but one of thousands of his kind—fugitives known as such, found, but not identified. Fifty thousand dollars reward offered for his capture, more than a year ago, and only a vague description by which to identify him, if arrested! If a perfect description of Tascott could have been obtained and published, the many suspects who have been arrested since he became a fugitive might have been immediately discharged, as their measurements, if taken, would not correspond with his. Would not that have prevented much injustice being done? How long shall like neglects continue? And the only objection yet urged is, that it is unjust to prisoners to take their descriptions! Why, my friends, you are not criminals; but what objection can there be to your descriptions being taken? I would favor the taking of the description, by the Bertillon system, of every man, and putting it upon record. If you are arrested for a Tascott, and have had your description recorded, you can easily establish the error and obtain a discharge, without waiting for telegrams and letters, and for persons to come and say you are not the man. What objection, pray?

If we are criminals, that is our fault. It is one of the very few aids the people have, that, if we are found, anywhere, we can be identified. If we are honest men, no harm can follow. Suppose you had been murdered, as was Cronin, and your body secreted until partial decomposition had occurred; or that you had lost your reason, and wandered from home perhaps thousands of miles; or some loved kindred or a friend had thus suffered; what harm, pray, if, at a prior date, such measurements had been made and recorded that, with like instruments, if dead, the body, or if living, the person, can be recognized—identified—if found? If dead, the bone-case of the skull, at least with two measurements, may be there. If living, and crazed, no measurements have been changed—all are the same—and the unfortunate sufferer may be returned to his home or his friends. Think of the advantages which might often occur at *post-mortems* in cities. Bodies are found, with clothing destroyed, faces and bodies mutilated, and possibly partial decomposition taken place. "An unknown man, murdered by parties not known to the jury." There are hundreds of such incidents. Later, inquiry is made for a prominent citizen of a remote city, who left home upon business or otherwise, some weeks prior to the search. The descriptions taken at a morgue are of little use, and the "unknown man" is still unknown. How many anxious, broken hearts are wondering, hoping, praying; but there can be no return of the lost one! Could the body have been identified, it might have led to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. Who can say, if an honest man, that he would object to the establishment of a bureau, in which his and every man's description shall be filed? To what good use the system might, also, be put by life insur-

ance companies? "Dead-heads" from poor-houses and graveyards could not be substituted for living claimants, without the collusion of the officers of companies and the claimants and the experts who measure the corpse. If attempted, the fraud would be detected, and the insurance companies would not be defrauded of their moneys; and the living "doubles" could be prosecuted and punished. If it were the innocent dead, and not guilty living, who could be punished, I am not sure but some of our dissenting wardens would yield their objections to this system. Should offices be opened in the large cities of this and other countries, and patronized by persons who intend going abroad, what means of introduction and identification could be so conclusively right, as the comparison of measurements under the Bertillon system? It would furnish the information often wanted, by bankers and others, without the aid of those who know both parties to the business to be done. Those uses would not be declared objectionable. Only when the interests of criminals are at stake—when necessary to identify them,—are objections raised. There are many other useful ways that the system can be applied; and if the head does not change, as claimed by M. Bertillon, offices will be opened for the use of the public,—and the system will not be confined merely to prison work, and the identification of criminals, but will extend into many other as useful fields.

I may not have given to you new thoughts, but have presented to you old ones in new ways. Little has been accomplished in this country as yet, with the Bertillon system. The list of prisons represented in the association was furnished to me by its eminent secretary, Major R. W. McClaughry, to whom belongs

the credit of having introduced to the attention of wardens the merits of the Bertillon system. He has furnished time, brains, and money toward its adoption in prisons. Also in complimentary line, is Mr. Gallus Müller, the able statistician of the Illinois penitentiary, at Joliet. He writes me that he has received from M. Bertillon, Paris, a statement of the results in France. He says that, of 15,603 individuals measured at the Bureau of Identification, in Paris, during the year 1886, 10,657 were measured for the *first time*. Of the recidivists, 4,824 were Frenchmen, of whom 303, or about 1 in 16, were recognized as recidivists, under assumed names, by the Bertillon system *exclusively*; while of 192 recidivists who were foreigners, 47, or nearly 1 in 4, were "nailed down" by the same means. This proportion, M. Bertillon says, would be still more striking, if count had been kept of thieves, burglars, and pick-pockets only, aside from vagrants and misdemeanants. Of the former, a foreigner will, almost without exception, give an assumed name, at every arrest. More than 1 in 2 Frenchmen had been at the bureau before; 1 only in 5 foreigners measured were recidivists.

The penitentiary at Joliet, Ill., has the system in more successful operation than any other prison. Then follows, the prisons at Detroit, Columbus, Allegheny, Huntingdon, Jackson, Elmira, and others, reports from which I have not received. The facts they are now collecting, if filed in a central office, will ultimately be of great use in the prevention of crime, and in the identification and punishment of criminals.

It is not necessary for me to say more, nor to describe the system, as my paper is addressed chiefly to men who are familiar with it. But I must urge all prison wardens to become members of the association.

It is an adjunct to the National Prison Association. With the growth of all such associations, their members grow in intelligence upon the subjects they discuss; and, therefore, their usefulness is enhanced. The discussions at our meetings will not long be as to the Bertillon system, or as to indexes, or escaped convicts; but they will inquire into the causes of crime-life, find out the social and business and other influences which conspire to the making of criminals; investigate the physiological and psychological peculiarities of dangerous men; and determine as to the responsibility of man for his errors, and as to his more successful treatment. Few men, if any, are altogether responsible for all their acts. We have not yet come to know much of the relation of mind and will and life to each other. They are separate, and yet inseparable. Henry Howard has said, "Every man is what he is for reason of his physical organization." Yes, but the mind and will must direct the physical organization, if they can. If they can not to some extent, then the man is not an accountable creature. Unquestionably, imperfections in men often come from defective organizations. Mind and matter are never so perfectly blended and adjusted in any man that he may be declared to be perfect in organization. Wardens have to deal solely with men whose organizations are sadly out of adjustment. Being simply a good judge of human nature, and able to read character, are surface exhibits of ability. Know more of the inner man. Make ourselves better acquainted with physiological and psychological conditions and influences, and their relation to each other, as affecting our wards. Probe into the causes for disturbance, and for their criminal acts; and we shall soon have a higher opinion of our profession or calling.

Does it not occur to the minds of wardens that, by association with their brethren, by correspondence, and by discussions at their meetings, while the measurements of the bone-case of their skulls may not have grown, their minds have enlarged? And if their minds have enlarged, their usefulness will also be more apparent? What objection is there to the discussion of still other questions?—that of systems—the separate, the congregate, and the mixed? and of architecture, as applied to prisons; and of sanitary methods; and of the treatment of the mentally-disturbed—the insane? There is no place on earth where there is such a diversity of kind, in relation to mind, as in a prison. A warden may think that a prisoner is accountable, simply because he knows right from wrong. “If he is crazy, why was he sent here?” is the inquiry, and the answer, and the end. Not always, if often, does he examine closely into complaints, and give ear to both complainant and the complained of. Punishment is usually inflicted by a subordinate officer, upon the reports of those of a grade still lower than he; and an offender’s explanation is seldom credited in defense. “The prisoner knew better!” “That is sufficient,” in the mind of the subordinate; and if “that is sufficient,” in the practice of the warden, why, punishment is almost certain to follow report. Thousands of insane men know right from wrong. They may be sufficiently rational, however, to fear the consequences resulting from disobeying the rules of a prison; and through their fears, they may be controlled. But is a warden’s mind perfectly balanced who thinks that, because a prisoner *knows* right from wrong, it follows to a certainty that he is for that reason perfectly sane, and for that reason always accountable for his acts? If such

be the correct standard for responsibility, then prison punishments can be easily determined. I remember well the first punishment I ever witnessed in a prison. It was nearly twenty-seven years ago. I had been but a few days in charge of an institution, where misdemeanants were imprisoned. Few only were under conviction for crime. Prisoners were received from the police stations at nine o'clock, each morning. They came, with the usual evidences of debauch—fatigued and sick. As early as possible after their arrival, they were bathed, clothed, and, if deemed by the receiving officer to be able to work, were immediately sent to the shops. There was no delay about this. Sitting in my office one morning, I heard cries as if from a person in great pain, from a voice in a workshop a hundred or more yards away. I went to the shop,—entering at its rear door, the most remote door from the office. I walked as hastily as I could along up its center, on either side of which were benches, and heavy machinery in full motion, with noise sufficient, seemingly, to have overwhelmed all human voices. At the benches and machines were many prisoners—not one at work—all industry had ceased. Their bodies were facing the head of the workshop. Some were making gestures, as if under the most intense excitement, and uttering blasphemous oaths. Others stood motionless, as if dazed at the sight of the infliction of pain. Others still, with frenzied, fitful, maniacal laugh, and with faces livid with anger, were walking to and fro—crazed, as it were, at the sight before them. And others, the less numerous of all, were with hands pressed to their foreheads, motionless—statues—whose last thought seemed to have been, “My God! why such inhumanity as this!”

At that time a novice as warden, and unused to the sight of human suffering; knowing nothing of the necessities for extraordinary punishments as the only means through which to make prisoners better men; with voice till then almost effeminate in tone, but now changed to the voice of one as having authority—"Cut that man down!" But the answer was, "Why, I'm punishing him!" "*Cut that man down!*" was the renewed command. Was that warden's mind perfectly balanced? The officer thought it was not, I guess; for he said, later, to a fellow officer, "That man will destroy our discipline, if he keeps on that way!" But "that man" has often said to himself, "Poor, weak, irresponsible creature that I am! Unable now to comprehend the forces—mental, physical, and moral—that prompt men to do strange acts, wrong acts, wicked acts,—when I come to *know* that I am perfectly sane,—then I may be able to so justly determine as to others' responsibility that I need never act upon impulse. Until that time, I will endeavor to so control my inclinations that, when called into action, they shall be toward the prevention of inhumanity anywhere—everywhere." In that prison were balls with chains and shackles, the elevator, which was in use on the occasion mentioned, the crucifix, and the coffin, as means through which to inflict bodily pain, as correctives and deterrents, when occasion required. The man who said, "that man will destroy our discipline, if he keeps on that way," was complainant, prosecuting attorney, judge, and executioner,—was a mere guard in a prison workshop, receiving a nominal salary as such, with additional compensation from prison contractors, for services rendered as an industrial instructor! The man who was being punished had been received on the morning of

that day; and the meridian hour had not as yet appeared. The following day—poor fellow!—"sick and in prison," with mind crazed from the effects of riotous living, and whose tongue gave expression to wild and horrible vagaries, causing the attendants to shudder at the distorted and terrible fancies of a brain in delirium, from the excessive use of intoxicating drinks!

Like inhumanities occurred in that day in many prisons; and they were the chief cause of the National Prison Association being organized. The lamented Rev. Dr. E. C. Wines, the father of the association, knew of them, and determined that they should cease. The great changes already made have come from the discussions in this association and in the National Association of Charities and Corrections. Keep hammering at them,—we are progressing. Largely, in those associations, only theorists,—persons who have had little practical experience, but good ideas,—give expression to their views; but they stimulate effort; they encourage and aid us in all good work; and they have a healthful influence in deterring us, if we are not doing as we should. If those and other kindred subjects were discussed in a thousand associations, it would not be amiss. We should aim to be of greater service, in correcting abuses, and in suggesting changes which will better the condition of prisoners and of discharged prisoners, and will retard the processes by which criminals are made; in other words, we should keep up with the advances of civilization—of the times in which we are living. As proof that the Wardens' Association is not inimical to the National Prison Association, the latter gives to us a day, and to our subjects and to our voices all the time and attention we ask, on other days than the appointed

one; and we give to that association a continuation of membership, and our presence, and our heartiest support. In fact, membership in the National Prison Association should be a first requisite to membership in the Wardens' Association. It is the wish of the able gentleman who first suggested the formation of a Wardens' Association, and whom we all love for his earnestness in suggesting and his energy in carrying forward the work,—Capt. Joseph Nicholson, its President,—and who has really been the head and the heart of the organization,—and we all wish,—that the National Prison Association shall continue for all time to give to us its advice, its encouragement, and its moral support.

What is needed is your membership, and your reports, and your intelligent observations, as they have been noted in your minds, in your intercourse with your prisoners and the public; and in exchange, we promise you that we will all grow in our work; and ultimately the world will not look upon us as mere prison-keepers, but as men who are engaged in one of the grandest works on earth—that of not only improving ourselves, but of making the condition of our defective, delinquent, and criminal fellow-beings much better than it has been, or ever would be, had we not given our aid.

ANTHROPOMETRIC DESCRIPTION.

The following are the descriptions, as now taken for the identification of criminals, in several of the prisons represented in the Wardens' Association:

1. Name; register number; age; where born; nationality.
2. Date when received and measured.
3. Height—the person standing erect—a square being used on top of the head.
4. Outstretched arms—from finger tip to finger tip.
5. Trunk—from the bench on which seated to the top of the head—a square being used on top of the head.
6. Length of head—from the cavity at the root of the nose to the remotest point of the back of the head.
7. Width of head—diameter from side to side, between the two points most remote from each other, situated over the ears, on a horizontal plane.
8. Right ear—length from the top of the rim to the lowest point of the lobe.
9. Left foot—length from the extreme point of the back of the heel to the end of the furthest projecting toe.
10. Left middle finger—from the point of the knuckle to the tip of the end of the finger, the finger being placed straight at right-angles to the back of the hand, giving the full length of finger.
11. Left little finger—same as left middle finger.
12. Left fore-arm—from the point of the elbow to the tip of the furthest projecting finger, the elbow being placed in sharp angles with the upper arm.
13. Left eye—color of inner (central) circle-pigment; color of external (peripheric) circle; the possible confusion of the pigment with an adjoining class; peculiarities.
14. Forehead—inclination; apparent height and width; peculiarities.
15. Nose—profile of ridge, base, and root; dimensions; peculiarities.
16. Hair and beard—color of each.
17. Complexion—including race and color.
18. Weight.
19. Marks, scars, malformations; origin of and character of; direction and inclination; approximate dimensions; and accurate location, with regard to specified anatomical points of the body.
20. Photographs—two views, one a profile of right side of face; one full face, with face turned slightly to the right, so as to present an eighth-front left likeness.

The following instruments and apparatus are required for taking the preceding measurements. That there may be perfect uniformity in those measurements, taken here, there, and anywhere, the instruments now used are made in France, with metrical divisions, and under the special supervision of the author of the present anthropometric system—M. Alphonse Bertillon. As each separate instrument exactly corresponds with every other of its kind, the measures of the same individual, wheresoever taken, and by whomsoever taken, anywhere and everywhere, will be perfectly uniform, if care is taken.

Sliding compasses—large size, with which to measure the left foot, left fore-arm, and the left middle and little fingers; small size, with which to measure the right ear.

Graduated measures—one for heights; one for outstretched arms; one for the trunk,—fixtures upon the walls of the measuring room.

Square—to place on the top of the head, while taking height; and trunk measures; and stools, tables, benches, etc., as required.

Photographic instruments and apparatus.

All lineal measures are taken in the metric system, in meters, centimeters, and millimeters, instead of in feet, and inches, and fractions of an inch, as the former is more minute and universal, and hence more appropriate in international work. If the system were to be applied in the United States only, the advantage of using the metric system would not be as apparent. Uniformity of instruments is absolutely necessary; and uniformity of system is certainly preferable. For the purpose of uniformity, the metric system should be followed.

A meter (or unit) is equal to thirty-nine inches and three hundred and sixty-eight one-thousandths of an inch, American standard; or, thirty-nine inches and three hundred and seventy one-thousandths of an inch, English standard. A centimeter (or hundredth of an unit) is equal to .3937 of an inch, English. A millimeter (or thousandth of an unit,) is equal to .03937 of an inch, English.

For the purpose of readily and almost instantaneously ascertaining information as to an unknown person, whose measures have been previously taken and recorded, and been retaken for the purpose of identification, the description of each individual should be copied upon a separate card, and classified, and filed in a case containing twenty-seven compartments, and especially devised for that purpose. With proper classification and arrangement of the cards, by giving the several measures, the identity of an individual can be determined, even if in a case containing the descriptions of thousands, almost while the question is being asked, "Can you tell me who that person is?" But such collections and cases are not absolutely essential to each prison, if there exists a central office, in which all such evidences are collected and filed. The application of the information is the essential of the description. In a central office this can be made perfect.

MEASUREMENTS of two highly respectable citizens of Joliet, Ill., taken prior to their visit abroad; and also after their arrival in Paris, France; and, also, of a citizen of Chicago, taken by several operators, from January 1 to August 14, 1889, to test their uniformity.

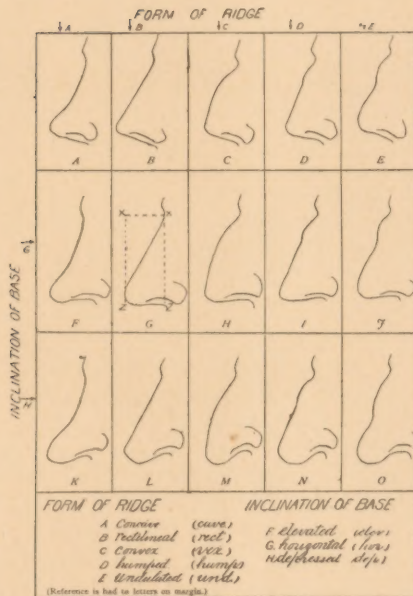
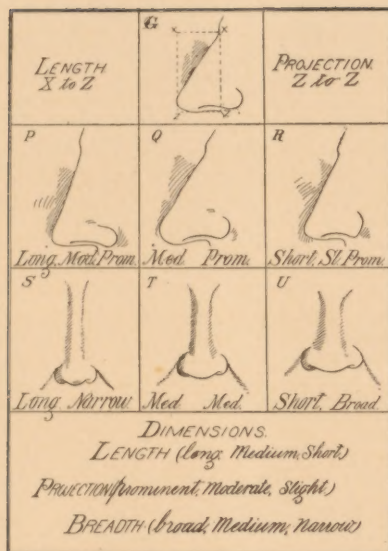
Where Taken.	NAMES OF GENTLEMEN AND NAMES OF OPERATORS*										Out- stretched Arms.	Trunk.	Ear.	Little Finger.
	Head Length.	Head Width.	Middle Finger.	Foot.	Fore- Arm.	Height.	Met.	Met.	Cent.	Cent.	Cent.	Cent.	Cent.	Cent.
Joliet, Ill.,	20.3	15.0	11.5	25.5	45.2	1.67	1.76	1.76	90.5	6.1	8.8			
Paris, France,	20.3	15.0	11.5	25.6	45.3	1.68	1.75	1.81	91.2	6.1	8.9			
Joliet, Ill.,	19.4	14.4	11.7	26.2	48.2	1.76	1.81	1.76	91.0	6.3	9.2			
Paris, France,	19.4	14.4	11.7	26.2	48.1	1.76	1.81	1.76	91.0	6.4	9.3			
Joliet, Ill.,	19.5	15.6	11.7	27.2	46.2	1.76.3	1.79	1.79	93.7	6.7	9.3			
Jackson, Mich.,	19.7	15.6	11.8	27.3	46.1	1.75.5	1.79	1.79	93.6	6.6	9.4			
Detroit, Mich.,	19.5	15.6	11.7	26.8*	46.1	1.76.6	1.79	1.79	93.7	6.6	9.3			
Chicago, Ill.,	19.6	15.7	11.8	27.2	46.4	1.76	1.79	1.79	93.4	6.7	9.4			
Allegheeny City, Pa.,	19.5	15.6	11.8	27.3	46.3	1.75.9	1.79	1.79	93.4	6.7	9.5			
Chicago, Ill.,	19.5	15.7	11.8	27.2	46.4	1.75.3	1.79	1.79	93.3	6.7	9.4			
	19.5	15.6	11.8	27.2	46.1	1.76.6	1.79	1.79	93.7	6.7	9.4			
	19.5	15.7	11.8	27.2	46.2	1.76.6	1.79	1.79	94.0	6.7	9.4			
	19.5	15.7	11.7	27.2	46.2	1.76.5	1.79	1.79	94.0	6.7	9.4			
	19.5	15.7	11.7	27.2	46.2	1.76.5	1.79	1.79	94.0	6.7	9.4			
Paris, France,	19.6	15.6	11.8	27.2	46.4	1.76	1.79	1.79	94.0	6.6	9.4			

*The *foot* measurement, taken at Detroit, is the *only* one not within the permitted limit of variation. Caused by too great a pressure upon the instrument used.

From Mr. Bertillon's letter of July 24, 1889, referring to above measurements: "You can judge for yourself, in an indisputable manner, with what marvelous precision measurements and descriptions are taken at Joliet."

MEASUREMENTS and Remeasurements of Criminals, by Different Operators, taken at the Illinois State Penitentiary,
at Joliet, Ill.

Date of Measurement.	NAME OF CRIMINAL.	Prisoners' Register Number.	Head Length.	Head Width.	Middle Finger.	Foot.	Fore-Arm.	Height.	Out-stretch'd Arms.	Trunk.	Ear.	Little Finger.
			Cent. Mil.	Cent. Mil.	Cent. Mil.	Cent. Mil.	Cent. Mil.	Meter. Cent.	Meter. Cent.	Cent. Mil.	Cent. Mil.	Cent. Mil.
May 25, 1888,	James H.,	8850	19.5	14.9	12.2	27.1	49.2	1.66	1.85	89.5	5.8	9.8
October 28, 1889,	Same, recommitted,	9844	19.6	15.0	12.3	27.1	49.3	1.66	1.84	89.5	5.8	9.8
March 3, 1888,	Nathan S.,	8683	18.9	14.9	11.2	26.7	46.5	1.68	1.71	92.0	6.3	8.7
October 29, 1889,	Same, recommitted,	9836	18.9	15.0	11.2	26.6	46.4	1.68	1.71	92.0	6.3	8.6
July 5, 1888,	William M.,	8939	17.9	15.7	10.8	24.8	43.0	1.64	1.63	91.0	5.9	8.5
October 15, 1889,	Same, recommitted,	9778	18.0	15.8	10.9	24.7	42.9	1.65	1.62	90.8	5.9	8.5
May 26, 1888,	William H.,	8797	18.8	15.2	11.7	26.5	47.3	1.67	1.81	88.5	6.4	9.1
August 3, 1889,	Same, recommitted,	9659	18.8	15.3	11.8	26.3	47.5	1.67	1.81	88.3	6.4	9.1
February 25, 1888,	Charles K.,	8667	20.2	16.7	11.4	26.5	45.3	1.67	1.73	91.0	6.8	9.1
May 25, 1889,	Same, recommitted,	9539	20.2	16.7	11.5	26.3	45.3	1.67	1.74	90.8	6.7	9.1
November 5, 1887,	Geo. W.,	8510	19.6	15.7	12.0	27.0	48.5	1.72	1.79	90.5	6.0	9.2
November 27, 1888,	Same, with alias, recommitted,	9174	19.6	15.7	12.0	27.2	48.5	1.73	1.86	90.8	6.0	9.2
November 5, 1889,	Same, remeasured,	9074	19.7	15.7	11.9	27.2	48.6	1.72	1.79	89.3	6.0	9.2
May 29, 1888,	Edward S.,	9543	19.1	16.0	11.7	25.8	47.5	1.74	1.77	92.0	6.5	9.4
November 5, 1889,	Same, remeasured,	9543	19.1	16.0	11.8	25.7	47.4	1.74	1.77	91.7	6.5	9.5
June 18, 1889,	Richard J.,	9579	20.3	14.7	12.3	26.1	49.0	1.74	1.82	93.3	6.5	9.1
November 5, 1889,	Same, remeasured,	9579	20.4	14.8	12.3	26.2	49.2	1.74	1.83	94.8	6.6	9.1
March 30, 1889,	James M.,	9443	18.7	15.1	11.5	27.2	47.3	1.80	1.83	96.3	6.6	8.8
November 5, 1889,	Same remeasured,	9443	18.7	15.2	11.6	27.2	47.5	1.79	1.83	95.2	6.5	8.9
April 27, 1889,	Chas. H.,	9493	18.1	15.2	10.8	25.4	44.0	1.71	1.70	91.5	6.0	8.5
November 5, 1889,	Same, remeasured,	9493	18.2	15.3	10.8	25.4	44.1	1.71	1.71	90.5	5.9	8.6





Length of Head.



Width of Head.



Left Middle Finger.



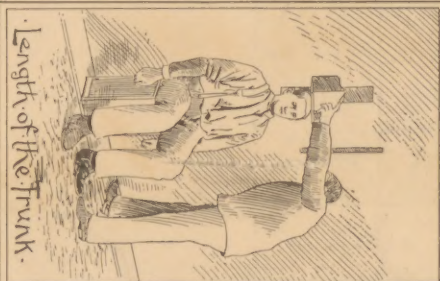
Left Foot.



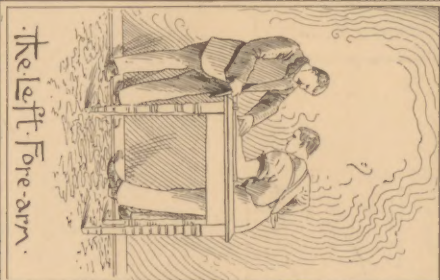
The Height.



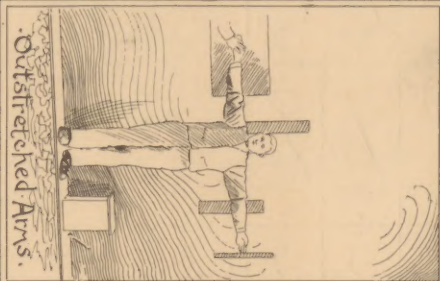
Length of Right Ear.



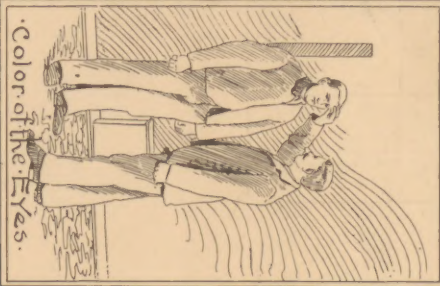
Length of the Trunk.



The Left Fore arm.



Outstretched Arms.



Color of the Eyes.